

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

City and Suburban Food Production, 1918.

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At the request of the Canada Food Board for some definite information relative to the extent of agricultural food production on city and suburban lots in British Columbia in 1918, a census was taken in June under the joint supervision of the Departments of Education and Agriculture. Card schedules were distributed to all the small-lot producers possible through the medium of the public schools.

These schedules called for the total number of square feet in garden or under cultivation; the number of vacant lots (if any) included in the area reported upon; the per cent. of increase or decrease in area compared with 1917; the total lineal feet of the different sorts of vegetables; estimated yield; and the numbers of poultry and live stock.

The total number of cards distributed was 31,393, whilst the total number filled out and returned was 9,770, or 31.1 per cent. After it was decided to take such a census, difficulty was experienced in getting the necessary supplies printed and into the hands of the school-teachers before the date on which the schools would close, with the result that a few centres were not reported upon, whilst the brief period for the distribution and collection of the cards by the schools further tended to lessen the returns. However, the number received was considered sufficient upon which to base an estimate of totals for the Province, and to show for the first time the extent of city and suburban production in this Province. Results go to prove that there was a universal and hearty response to the call for greater food production, so necessary toward relieving the consumption of other foods more essential for distribution amongst the Allied fighting forces and the more needy civilian population in Belgium and France.

The total area of vegetables produced by small-lot cultivators was 3,233 acres, with a total yield of 26,747 tons, which is 14.9 per cent. of the total October provisional estimate for the entire Province in 1918. The total value of these crops is estimated to be \$869,240.

To more clearly illustrate the extent of this production, it may be noted that the total lineal measurement of growing vegetables was 12,457 miles, or approximately enough to make two continuous rows from Victoria, B.C., to and along the Allies' Western fighting line. The total yield would make a freight-train load of 1,486 cars, extending 11½ miles.

In order to further show the value of such a quantity of vegetables as a relief to the consumption of other foods, it may be stated that with a daily ration of 14 oz. of potatoes and 6 oz. of other vegetables, there would be sufficient to feed the present population of British Columbia at least four months.

In addition to the value of vegetables produced in this manner, there were thousands of dollars' worth of fruits which were not enumerated.

The total value of vegetables and animal products from small plots was \$2,222,512. Poultry and eggs alone are valued at \$852,114, whilst dairy products totalled \$314,925.

BRITISH COLUMBIA 1918
CITY AND SUBURBAN FOOD PRODUCTION RECORD
SHOWING PERCENTAGES & AREAS OF VEGETABLES
AS COMPARED WITH THE TOTAL AREA
TOTAL AREA 3293.5 ACRES

ABBOTSFORD	27% - 878.4A
ANYER	1.9% - 63.4A
ARMSTRONG	1.9% - 62.8A
ASHCROFT	3.4% - 109.9A
BURNABY	5.1% - 166.5A
CHILLIWACK	4.7% - 153.5A
CUMBERLAND	1.0% - 30.6A
DUNCANS	.8% - 25.2A
ENDERBY	1.3% - 42.3A
FERME	.8% - 24.6A
GRAND FORKS	1.7% - 56.2A
HANEY	1.7% - 55.7A
KAPLOOPS	1.7% - 54.1A
KEREMEOS	.37% - 12.1A
KERRITT	.8% - 25.4A
MISSION CITY	3.1% - 100.3A
MIRAMIC	5.9% - 192.2A
NELSON	1.0% - 32.2A
NEW WESTMINSTER	2.0% - 63.4A
NORTH VANCOUVER	2.5% - 72.8A
RECHLAND	2.5% - 81.3A
RENTICTON	2.0% - 65.6A
SAINT CARY	1.7% - 56.6A
RICHMOND	4.5% - 146.9A
SARVICH	1.0% - 32.2A
SLOCAN	.9% - 27.9A
SOUTH VANCOUVER	3.0% - 96.2A
SURREY	1.0% - 32.2A
VANCOUVER CITY	3.5% - 114.0A
VERNON	4.5% - 146.5A
VICTORIA	7.2% - 233.3A
WEST VANCOUVER	2.5% - 72.8A
YALIA	2.0% - 65.6A

N.B.—Only the chief producing centres reported upon are included in above.

CITY AND SUBURBAN FOOD PRODUCTION RECORD
1918
SHOWING PERCENTAGES & ACREAGE DISTRIBUTION
(TOTAL AREA VEGETABLES RECORDED 3293.5 ACRES)

VANCOUVER ISLAND	23.6% - 763.9A
LOWER MAINLAND	39.5% - 1271.5A
THOMPSON WATERSHED	10.1% - 329.9A
CENTRAL & NORTHERN	1.7% - 55.4A
OKANAGAN	7.8% - 252.9A
BOUNDARY	1.1% - 35.9A
KOOTENAY	6.4% - 205.0A

The total number of vacant lots placed under cultivation was 3,433; Greater Vancouver (including Burnaby) being credited with 834, and Greater Victoria 1,001.

Of the strictly urban centres reported upon, the City of Victoria shows the largest area for vegetables, there being 232.3 acres, as against 196.2 acres in Nanaimo and 127.0 in the City of Vancouver.

Of the suburban centres, Saanich leads with 348.8 acres, or 10.8 per cent. of the total urban and suburban area in the Province.

It is interesting to note the average yield of the various vegetables, which compares very favourably with the field yields, and reflect in no small measure the knowledge possessed by our city people in the art of horticulture.

CITY AND SUBURBAN FOOD PRODUCTION RECORD, 1918.

Total square feet	143,814,220	
Total acres	3,301.5	
Number of vacant lots	3,433	
	Acres.	Total Yield.
Beans	172.9	579
Beets and Mangels	57.9	1,335
Cabbage and cauliflower, etc.	63.5	839
Carrots	47.7	906
Corn	272.8	1,201
Onions	31.5	374
Parsnips	15.7	299
Peas	113.00	565
Potatoes	2,975.7	15,775
Tomatoes	135.3	1,895
Turnips and kohlrabi	75.2	1,341
Other vegetables	172.3	1,638
Totals	3,233.5	26,747

LIVE STOCK ON CITY AND SUBURBAN LOTS, JUNE, 1918.

Hens and chicks	326,842
Ducks	10,700
Geese	2,118
Turkeys	1,017
Rabbits	12,980
Goats	523
Pigs	5,186
Milk cows, two years and under ..	3,315
Calves	1,571
Hives of bees	1,218

PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE OF VALUE OF CITY AND SUBURBAN LOT PRODUCTION, 1918.

Vegetables	\$ 860,240
Poultry (dressed)	256,666
Eggs	595,448
Rabbits	75,000
Goats	700
Pigs	88,680
Dairy products	314,925
Veal	6,324
Honey	15,529
Total	\$2,222,512

VICTORIA, B.C.:

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